

or Section 504 plan can satisfy the CAHSEE requirement by:

- passing the examination,
- meeting the exemption requirement pursuant to California *Education Code (EC)* Section 60852.3, or
- receiving a local waiver pursuant to *EC* Section 60851(c)(1).

Information for students with disabilities can be found on the CDE Students with Disabilities – CAHSEE Exemptions and Waivers Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/hs/cahseewaiversexempt.asp>.

*EC* Section 60852.3 provides an exemption from meeting the CAHSEE requirement as a condition of receiving a diploma of graduation. To be eligible students with disabilities must have an IEP or a Section 504 plan. The IEP or Section 504 plan must state that the student is scheduled to receive a high school diploma. It must also state that the student has satisfied or will satisfy all other state and local requirements for high school graduation, on or after July 1, 2009. The exemption from meeting the CAHSEE requirement ends June 30, 2015. The State Board of Education (SBE) can extend the exemption one additional year if needed to implement the alternative means assessment.

### **What is done to assist students with disabilities when taking the CAHSEE?**

The CAHSEE regulations specify accommodations and modifications that students with disabilities must be permitted to use if specified in the student's IEP or Section 504 plan. The IEP or plan must specify that these modifications or accommodations can be used on the CAHSEE, standardized testing, or for use during classroom instruction and assessments. Students who use an accommodation and earn a score of 350 or higher have passed that part of the CAHSEE. Students who use a modification and earn the equivalent of a

passing score on one or both parts of the CAHSEE have not passed. However, to meet the CAHSEE requirement, a principal may request a local waiver of the CAHSEE requirement from their local school board.

### **What is done to assist English learner students who are taking the CAHSEE?**

Students who are English learners must be allowed to take the CAHSEE with certain test variations. These variations apply if used regularly in the classroom. For example, English learners must be permitted to hear the test directions in their primary language or use a translation glossary.

Students who are English learners are required to take the CAHSEE in grade ten with all other grade ten students. During their first 24 months in a California school, English learners are to receive 6 months of instruction in reading, writing, and comprehension in English (*EC* Section 60852). During this time, they are still required to take the CAHSEE. All students must pass the CAHSEE in English to receive their high school diploma.

### **For more information...**

Visit the CDE CAHSEE Web page at

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/hs/>

or

Contact your child's teachers,  
principal, or counselor.

# **California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE)**

## **Information for Parents and Guardians for the 2014–15 School Year**

*Prepared by  
California Department of Education*

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# Information for Parents and Guardians

## What is the CAHSEE?

State law allowed for the creation of the California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE) in 1999.

All California public school students, except eligible students with disabilities, must pass the CAHSEE to receive a high school diploma. Students also must meet state and local requirements.

The primary purpose of the CAHSEE is to make sure that students who graduate from high school can show that they are performing at grade level on California's content standards. The content standards on the CAHSEE include reading, writing, and mathematics. Standards describe what students should know and be able to do at each grade level from kindergarten through grade twelve.

## What subjects does the CAHSEE cover?

The exam consists of two parts. The first part includes English–language arts (reading and writing) content standards through grade ten. The reading section covers:

- Vocabulary
- Informational reading comprehension
- Literary response and analysis

The writing section covers:

- Writing strategies
- Writing applications
- Written and oral English language conventions

The other part of the CAHSEE addresses California's mathematics content standards in grades six and seven and Algebra I, including the following:

- Statistics, data analysis, and probability
- Number sense

- Measurement and geometry
- Algebra and functions
- Mathematical reasoning
- Algebra I

Students must show computational skills and a foundation of knowledge in arithmetic including working with decimals, fractions, and percentages.

## What kinds of questions are on the CAHSEE?

The English–language arts part of the CAHSEE includes multiple-choice questions and a writing task (essay). The mathematics part includes all multiple-choice questions. All questions on the test are in English.

## When is the CAHSEE administered?

The CAHSEE is administered at the school site during regular school hours on the State Superintendent of Public Instruction approved dates chosen by your school district. The English–language arts part is administered on the first day of testing. The mathematics part is administered on the second day. All students must take the CAHSEE for the first time in grade ten.

A scale score of 350 or higher is required on each part of the CAHSEE to pass. Students do not need to pass both parts of the CAHSEE during the same test administration. Students who do not pass one or both parts in grade ten will have additional chances in grade eleven and in grade twelve, if needed. Students who have not passed one or both parts by the end of grade twelve may contact their school or school district to inquire about options available to them.

## When do parents or guardians receive their child's results?

Within eight weeks, school districts will receive CAHSEE Student and Parent reports. The school district will send one copy to the student's parents or guardians and place the other copy in the student's permanent record.

## Does passing the CAHSEE guarantee that a student will receive a high school diploma?

No. Passing the CAHSEE is just one requirement for graduating from high school. Students also must meet all other state and local requirements to receive a diploma.

## How can parents or guardians help their child prepare for the CAHSEE?

The best preparation for the CAHSEE is good instruction. Parents or guardians should talk with their child's teachers or principal about the English–language arts and mathematics content standards being taught at the school. The California Department of Education (CDE) has released sample CAHSEE test questions and CAHSEE study guides. These can be used to help students, parents, and guardians prepare for the CAHSEE. These materials can be found on the CDE CAHSEE Program Resources Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/hs/resources.asp>.

Some children may need extra help to pass the CAHSEE. Parents or guardians should ask school officials about additional learning opportunities provided by the school.

## Are students with disabilities required to pass the CAHSEE?

Eligible students with disabilities with an active individualized education program (IEP)